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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 37th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ELARABY (Egypt)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 63, 67 AND 69

ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS UNDER DISARMAMENT ITEM 63 AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS 67 AND 69

The CHAIRMAN: This morning the Committee will continue the third phase of its work: action on draft resolutions. We shall proceed to take action, first, on the following draft resolutions submitted under international security agenda items 67 and 69: A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1, A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1 and A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1.

After completing action on those draft resolutions the Committee will take action on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4, submitted under disarmament agenda item 63 (a), "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: report of the Disarmament Commission". I should like to note that the Committee also has before it, in document A/C.1/47/L.48, the text of amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4.

Before the Committee proceeds to take action on the draft resolutions, I shall call on those delegations wishing to make statements.

Ms. MAS (Canada): I wish to raise a point of order as to procedure. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.48 would like to put before the Committee a revised version, which we have handed in to the Secretariat. This is a non-paper; it could be described as an oral amendment. But delegations will not be able to consider it unless they have the non-paper before them.

We should appreciate an indication from you, Mr. Chairman, as to when it will be distributed, because, in our view, without it delegations will simply not be able to understand what they are being asked to consider.

The CHAIRMAN: The non-paper to which the representative of Canada has referred is being photocopied now, and will be circulated. In the meantime, we shall take up other draft resolutions.

Mr. WISNUMURTI (Indonesia): I have the honour to introduce, on behalf the non-aligned countries, draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1.

In recent years we have witnessed significant improvements in the global political and security climate. A new security situation is being shaped as a result of a profound change and transition in the international landscape. The important advances made in arms-limitation have also bolstered our hopes for a secure world. In many regions concerted efforts are being made to end conflict through dialogue and negotiation. Thus a new positive trend is discernible both globally and regionally.

Concurrently, however, the reduction of the probability of war in Europe and elsewhere has been accompanied by a dangerous increase in the number of conflicts, with the attendant consequences for stability and tranquillity. It is evident that solid foundations for regional and international security are still lacking.

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Indonesia)

The need has therefore arisen to fashion viable security structures to maintain peace and to prevent the eruption of conflicts.

In sponsoring draft resolution L.45/Rev.1, the non-aligned countries believe that international security is no longer an exclusively military matter and that it has acquired a multi-faceted dimension. Of particular importance in this regard are the mounting social economic problems that remain the overriding concern for a vast majority of countries.

A breakdown of the global economic system can lead to major security problems. Hence development needs must be met if lasting security is to be achieved. We should also forge a new era of security by directing military spending to enhance the quality of life for people throughout the world.

Among the salient features of the draft resolution is the recognition accorded to generally accepted approaches to security, as reflected not only in General Assembly debates but also in this Committee.

It also takes into account the new strategic situation and its possible future evolution, while reaffirming the basic principles enshrined in the Charter.

First, the validity of confidence-building measures is explicitly acknowledged. However, to be effective such measures should be directed towards meeting the legitimate security concerns of the participating States, reconcile the divergent security and geopolitical perceptions of the States concerned, and be appropriate to the needs of the region. The focus should not be on military aspects alone, but should be broader, including political, economic, social and other non-military measures. They should also be based on openness and transparency in military matters and restraint in acquiring armaments.

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Indonesia)

Secondly, in the context of the globalization of disarmament efforts, the sponsors believe that such endeavours at the global and regional levels should complement and reinforce each other. Progress at each level should contribute to the enhancement of the security of all States.

Thirdly, it is time to reconstruct the concept of collective action for peace and security under the Charter in order to facilitate the task of the United Nations in carrying out its primary function. We need a workable system of collective security in which all Member States have full confidence. Such a system alone will ensure the security of all States, especially the small and the weak. The sponsors believe that maintenance of international security is a multilateral issue whose complexities call for the cooperation of all countries. All Member States should participate in such endeavours within the framework of the United Nations. Thus the draft resolution seeks to promote our collective efforts to advance the cause of security. It also reflects the sea of change while recognizing the fact that the problem of security still dominates the international agenda.

The non-aligned countries have conducted intensive consultations with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1 in order to reconcile divergent views on the item concerning international security. In an effort to take into account the views expressed by the sponsors of that draft resolution, the sponsors of L.45/Rev.1 would like to make the following amendments to it.

The first concerns paragraph 4. On the third line, the following words should be deleted: "and colonial or alien domination".

In paragraph 11, line 5, the following words should be deleted: "colonial or alien domination or".

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Indonesia)

In conclusion, I express the expectation of the draft resolution's sponsors that it will elicit the support of a great majority of Member States.

Mr. FOUATHIA (Algeria) (interpretation from French): It is an honour and a privilege for my delegation to introduce the draft resolution in document A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", sponsored by Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia.

This draft resolution is the result of intensive consultations with the interested parties since the very beginning of this session, with a new, realistic and frank approach. This draft, which takes into account changes that have occurred in the international arena, reflects the new view of Mediterranean countries as to the form security and cooperation in that region should take.

(Mr. Fouathia, Algeria)

The main objective of the coastal States is cooperation in the Mediterranean region to strengthen peace and security in the region. It is this innovative approach that has guided us in framing this draft resolution, which has 9 preambular paragraphs and 14 operative paragraphs that reflect faithfully the situation in the Mediterranean area and take note of the various initiatives of the Mediterranean coastal States to achieve the main objective to which I have referred.

Thus, in the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution the General Assembly would recall, first of all, the link with the earlier consensus resolutions on the subject and then reaffirm the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the area.

Further, the Assembly would recognize that security in the Mediterranean area is indivisible and that there is a need for closer cooperation among Mediterranean countries, and that this cooperation is likely to be enhanced by positive developments in the world, particularly in Europe.

While recognizing the efforts of the coastal States and their determination to intensify dialogue to solve problems and eliminate the causes of tension, the General Assembly would affirm that it was the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region and to reaffirm their commitment to respect the Charter of the United Nations as well as the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States.

Further, the General Assembly would express concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region.

(Mr. Fouathia, Algeria)

In the last preambular paragraph the General Assembly would take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/524).

In paragraph 1 of the operative part, the Assembly would again this year reaffirm that there was a close link between security in the Mediterranean and in Europe. In operative paragraph 3 it would welcome the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in the continuation of the initiatives and negotiations now under way, as well as the adoption of confidence- and security-building measures as well as disarmament in the region.

While expressing satisfaction at the efforts of Mediterranean countries to eliminate the causes of tension and to promote equitable and lasting solutions to the persistent problems through peaceful means and to ensure the withdrawal of foreign occupation forces, and while seeking adherence to the principles of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, the General Assembly would recognize that the elimination of economic and social disparities and other obstacles would contribute to strengthening international peace, security and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries.

Further, listing the various initiatives taken so far by the Mediterranean countries, the General Assembly would recall the decisions taken by the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Western Mediterranean Countries, held at Algiers in October 1991, and also mention the decision concerning the forthcoming summit meeting in Tunis.

The Assembly would also take note of all the relevant documents from the various forums on Mediterranean questions, including the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Jakarta, the Helsinki meeting in July 1992, the meeting of the European Council of

(Mr. Fouathia, Algeria)

Ministers held at Lisbon last June, and the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean held at Malaga.

In the matter of support for the idea of convening a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, the sponsors consider, this year too, that the idea should be encouraged, as should the ongoing regional consultations with a view to creating the appropriate conditions for convening such a conference.

Lastly, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region; and would decide to include this item in the provisional agenda of the next session of the General Assembly.

In view of the considerations outlined above and in the light of the consultations that led to the drafting of this compromise text, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1 express the hope that this proposal will be adopted, as in the past, without a vote.

Mr. FEDOTOV (interpretation from Russian): On behalf of the delegations of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, and also of Albania, Croatia, Malta and Poland, I am happy to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Maintenance of international security", contained in document A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1.

The draft resolution we are introducing today is a short and straightforward one. The main thrust of the draft resolution is to give a new

(Mr. Fedotov, Russian Federation)

impetus to the First Committee's consideration of items relating to security in the light of the new tasks facing the United Nations in this era when the cold war and bipolar confrontation have ended. Another reason for its importance is that it has been decided to merge the consideration in the First Committee of the items on disarmament and on international security.

The changed realities of international relations require a constant search for new approaches to the consideration within the United Nations of the issues of international security. Dialogue on these issues must, it seems to us, be based on a constructive foundation conducive to harmonizing the approaches taken by States to strengthening the peacemaking potential of the United Nations and its principal organs and to giving additional impetus to the efforts of the Organization to establish world-wide cooperation and security and a more stable world order.

A solid basis for developing multilateral discussions in this important area is set out in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277).

(Mr. Fedotov, Russian Federation)

The report contains a serious effort to find, on a collective basis, adequate responses to the developing problems of international security. The draft resolution also takes note of the Secretary-General's ideas and proposals which are to be found in his report "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold war era" (A/C.1/47/7).

The draft resolution we are introducing does not contain any ready-made solutions for the Organizations's further consideration of the items on international security. By the next session of the General Assembly, States will have had an opportunity to express their views on this subject, and it is important that we should not fail to take advantage of any valuable idea or constructive proposal.

On behalf of the sponsors of the draft, I should like to express the hope that its adoption will help to establish the broadest possible dialogue on the maintenance of international peace and security and the adoption of decisions acceptable to all.

The original draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.47 submitted by the sponsors has been amended by the incorporation of some changes taking into account the wishes of a large number of countries and also the consultations held with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1 hope that it will receive broad support from Member States.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Portugal for an explanation of vote before the vote.

Ms. MENDES (Portugal): The delegations of the five Mediterranean countries of the European Community, namely, France, Greece Italy, Portugal and Spain on whose behalf I speak, wish to express their common position

(Ms. Mendes, Portugal)

concerning draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1 entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediteranean region".

The five Mediterranean countries consider that close cooperation among the countries of the region with a view to further partnership is a precondition to achievement of the desired stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean.

We believe that a common commitment to generally accepted rules and principles covering, simultaneously, the aspects of security, economic cooperation and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as democratic values, should be the firm common basis for lasting and solid regional cooperation.

This aspect was emphasized by the European Council of Ministers in their Declaration at Lisbon on 25 June 1992. A new kind of relationship among all the nations in the area is required, one in which new avenues for economic cooperation and inter-cultural dialogue should be opened up within the framework of common security and respect for international law. Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1 constitutes a very commendable effort in that direction. The original sponsors, with which the five Mediterranean European countries have been in constant consultation during the elaboration of the draft, have shown a willingness to address a great number of relevant issues.

The five European Mediterranean countries wish to express the hope that the positive atmosphere that has prevailed this year will lead to the submission of a draft resolution by an increasing number of Mediterranean countries at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now proceed to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1, as orally revised. A recorded vote has been requested.

(The Chairman)

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the First Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1, "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", as orally revised this morning by the representative of Indonesia, was introduced by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at the 37th meeting of the First Committee on 20 November 1992.

The Committee will now proceed to take a recorded vote on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1, as orally revised.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted by 88 votes to 1, with 40 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the First Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1, "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", was introduced by the representative of Algeria at the 37th meeting of the First Committee on 20 November 1992 and is sponsored by the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia.

With reference to paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, I wish to point out, on behalf of the Secretariat, that the report referred to in that paragraph will be carried out from available resources and, accordingly, should the resolution be adopted, there will be no additional programme budget implications.

The CHAIRMAN: It is my understanding that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1 have expressed the wish that it be adopted without a vote. May I take it that the Committee adopts the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1. I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1, entitled "Maintenance of international security", was introduced by the representative of the Russian Federation at the 37th meeting of the First Committee, held on 20 November 1992. It is sponsored by the following countries: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The CHAIRMAN: A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Crotia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay

Against: None

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.2 was adopted by 56 votes to none, with 67 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on representatives who wish to speak in explanation of their vote on the draft resolutions just adopted.

Mr. GÜVEN (Turkey): I should like briefly to explain my delegation's position on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", which the First Committee has just adopted. As in previous years, my delegation joined in the consensus in favour of the draft resolution under this item. We did so to express our keen interest in the maintenance and strengthening of peace and security in the entire Mediterranean region.

I should note, however, that the draft resolution refers to certain meetings in which Turkey did not participate. I should like to state for the record that our having taken part in the adoption of the draft resolution should not be construed as our agreement with every element contained in the documents adopted at those meetings.

Mr. FEDOTOV (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): The Russian delegation considers it necessary to explain the reasons for its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1. Russia respects the Non-Aligned Movement, on whose behalf the draft resolution was introduced. The merit of the text lies in its evaluation of the recent positive changes in the international landscape, characterized by the end of the cold war, the relaxation of tension on the global level and the emergence of a new spirit governing relations among nations.

We welcome the oral amendments proposed by Ambassador Wisnumurti of Indonesia. At the same time, we regret that a number of the provisions of the draft resolution are drafted in the spirit of the old confrontational formulations that were typical of United Nations debate during the cold war.

(Mr. Fedotov, Russian Federation)

Clearly, no one questions the principles of equal rights and the self-determination of peoples, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and have become established in international relations. Yet during a period when colonial empires have collapsed and when newly independent States have emerged to replace totalitarian structures, our approach to the principle of self-determination needs to be reviewed.

In a number of cases, unfortunately, extremist nationalistic forces are making use of the slogan of self-determination and are involving peoples in bloodshed and ethnic conflict. This poses a threat to the integrity of a number of States and dangerously destabilizes the situation in entire regions and, indeed, throughout the world. It hampers the search for a way to escape from economic backwardness and brings suffering, poverty and hunger to peoples.

For that reason, we cannot support the draft resolution's affirmation of the legitimacy of the liberation struggle of peoples.

(Mr. Fedotov, Russian Federation)

Formulated in such a general manner, this provision could be used to justify acts of violence which are a threat to international security. In view of all this, the delegation of the Russian Federation abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1.

Ms. HERZL (Israel): Israel joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1, which has just been adopted. However, had it been a paragraph-by-paragraph vote, Israel would have voted against operative paragraphs 2 and 5.

Mr. SHOUKRY (Egypt): I am speaking in explanation of my delegation's vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1, "Maintenance of international security".

My delegation was obliged to abstain in the voting on this draft resolution in the light of its procedural nature: we consider that it invokes a dual approach in addressing the reports of the Secretary-General "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277) and "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era" (A/C.1/47/7).

As delegations are well aware, the first of these important documents, "An Agenda for Peace", is currently being considered in the Working Group established by the President of the General Assembly and also by the Working Group established by the Security Council. The various aspects of this report, particularly those concerning international security, will be dealt with by the General Assembly in plenary meeting and by the Security Council. As for the report of the Secretary-General, "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era", consultations undertaken during this session of the First Committee indicate a consensus concerning the convening of a renewed session of the First Committee during 1993.

(Mr. Shoukry, Egypt)

The delegation of Egypt has on many occasions expressed its gratitude for the submission by the Secretary-General of these two important documents, which it considers to be valuable contributions to the efforts aimed at strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in dealing with the challenges that will face the international community in the future. My delegation would support the idea of delegating to the First Committee in the future the responsibility for evaluating and presenting recommendations on the ideas contained in these two reports in the area of the maintenance of international security, if the General Assembly so desires, since this would fall within the competence of this Committee.

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the sponsors of A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1 for their accommodation of various views expressed by the non-aligned countries concerning the original text of their draft resolution. These amendments provide an acceptable basis on which to build during the next session, when more time will be available for consultations on this important issue, an element which was not available during this session.

Mr. SADER (Uruguay) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation voted in favour of the two draft resolutions A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1 and A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1. We should like to explain why we voted in this way. We agree with the thrust of the two draft resolutions, although we have a few comments to make on both of them. We would like to say first of all, however, how pleased we are that both draft resolutions have been amended so that they are now compatible with each other, without any apparent contradictions.

As to A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1, we voted in favour because we believe that this is basically another opportunity for a constructive dialogue on the subject of international security. Having said that, we would also like to

(Mr. Sader, Uruguay)

say, first of all, that my delegation was glad that the sponsors agreed to withdraw the second preambular paragraph, which enabled my delegation to vote in favour. In my delegation's view, the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security deserves much more than a mere archeological interest. It contains a set of fundamental principles that should govern international coexistence in the past, the present and the future. We feel that these principles are still valid and that they will remain so over time. Some of its paragraphs, however, might be reconsidered in the light of the present international situation.

Secondly, my delegation has some doubts about the title of the draft resolution and the new item to be introduced at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The phrase "Maintenance of international security" gives the impression that it tends to perpetuate the status quo, which no one would consider satisfactory. We do not feel that this was the sponsors' intention, but we do feel it necessary to mention that they could have found more positive wording for the title of the item.

Thirdly, as to the specific proposals in the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution, we have no problem, although we believe that much of this work, as it relates to "An Agenda for Peace", is already being done within the Ad Hoc Group of the plenary General Assembly and in eight main and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations system. On the question of the report on new dimensions, we believe that this topic is being analysed in this Committee.

As to draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1, we fully agree with the objectives, but we would have preferred to see some change in the language of certain paragraphs. For instance, in operative paragraph 11, which was amended today in a positive way, we would have liked to see a more positive

(Mr. Sader, Uruguay)

reference to the peaceful settlement of disputes in conflicts involving foreign occupation, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter.

Finally, my delegation would have liked to see these two draft resolutions improved even further and adopted by consensus.

Mr. BATIOUK (Ukraine) (interpretation from Russian): The Ukrainian delegation has asked to speak in explanation of its vote on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.47/Rev.1. We voted in favour of that draft resolution because, following the revision and elimination of the former second preambular paragraph, the draft resolution as a whole became acceptable to us as a complement to draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.45/Rev.1.

At the same time, we note that the changes in the draft resolution did not fully do away with the original idea of its sponsors, and the draft resolution continues to stress only the new tasks in the maintenance of international peace and security and gives the impression that all the old tasks have already been carried out or have become meaningless.

We also feel that the new agenda item would sound better if it were entitled "Strengthening of international security" rather than "Maintenance of international security". Another reason why our delegation had some difficulty voting for the draft resolution is that despite the sponsors' aspiration, referred to in the second preambular paragraph, to promote a greater convergence of views among Member States as to the priorities of the United Nations in shaping a more stable international order, that aspiration was not realized during the stage of harmonization of the text of the draft resolution, a fact indirectly reflected in the group of its sponsors and in the results of the voting.

The CHAIRMAN: We proceed now to the amendments in document A/C.1/47/L.48 and to draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): As requested, we have circulated a "non-paper" - I believe it is now in the hands of all delegations - concerning draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4 and the amendments thereto in document A/C.1/47/L.48.

I am informed that the representative of Canada will be introducing a revised version of these amendments and will be reading the changes into the record. Of course, the "non-paper" has no official status and has been circulated only to facilitate the process of taking action on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.48.

Ms. MASON (Canada): As the Secretary has indicated, Canada, on behalf of the sponsors, will now introduce orally a revised version of the amendments in document A/C.1/47/L.48. For the assistance of delegations, a "non-paper" has been distributed that contains, in bold type, the revised version of the document. By way of explanation, the lighter type in the "non-paper" is the rest of the document. In other words, this "non-paper" before delegations represents draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4 as it would read, if it were amended in accordance with the revised version of document A/C.1.47/L.48.

There are two typographical errors in the "non-paper" which I should like to mention before formally reading the amendments into the record.

The first error is in the second of the new preambular paragraphs - which are, of course, the ones in bold type. In the first line, beginning, "Noting the support" the word "item" has been omitted after the word "new". The line should read,

(Ms. Mason, Canada)

"Noting the support for consideration of the inclusion of a new item in ...".

The other typographical error is in the third of the new preambular paragraphs. The acronym "UNDC" should be replaced by "the Disarmament Commission".

I shall now read out the three new preambular paragraphs:

"Noting the support for the proposal to include a new item in the agenda of the 1993 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, entitled 'General guidelines for non-proliferation, with special emphasis on weapons of mass destruction';

"Noting the support for consideration of the inclusion of a new item in the agenda of the 1994 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission entitled 'International arms transfers, with particular reference to resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991';

"Recognizing the need to further improve the effective functioning of the Disarmament Commission, and bearing in mind the experience of the 1992 substantive session when the agenda item on objective information on military matters was successfully concluded;".

We turn now to the next page of the "non-paper". The effort here was to make the document look as it would in its entirety. I must note, however, that although operative paragraph 7 is not in bold type there is one change from the present draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4. That text has a subparagraph (1), reading "[To be decided]". The proposed amendment here is that that subparagraph should be deleted and the remaining subparagraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

The new operative paragraph is numbered 8. It reads:

(Ms. Mason, Canada)

"8. Requests that the Disarmament Commission, at the aforementioned organizational meeting, consider the following matters:

"(1) The objective of moving the agenda of the Disarmament Commission to a three-item phased approach with one item in the first year of consideration, one item in its middle year and one item in its concluding year with the result that, in principle, one item is added and one item is concluded respectively at each substantive session:

"(2) That, in furtherance of the foregoing, the 1993 substantive session should be considered as a transitional year and therefore should consider whether:

"(i) Two items on the current agenda, namely those items referred to in operative paragraph 7 (2) and (3) respectively, should be concluded,

"(ii) One item - namely that referred to in operative paragraph 7 (1) - should be held over for conclusion at the next substantive session in 1994; and

"(iii) One new item should be included in the substantive agenda."

That, then, is the text of the revised version of document A/C.1/47/L.48, which, as required, I have formally read into the record. I should like very briefly to summarize these proposals.

Let us turn back to page 1 and che proposed new preambular paragraphs. The first one notes support for taking up in 1993 what has become known as the "Swedish proposal". The second notes support for considering the taking up in 1994 of what has been known as the "Colombian proposal". The third recognizes the need to improve further the functioning of the Disarmament Commission.

(Ms. Mason, Canada)

In the operative part, paragraph 7 would stay as it is in draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4, apart from the deletion of the "[To be decided]" subparagraph. The new paragraph 8 has the effect of requesting that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1992 organizational meeting, consider what has been called the "phased approach", or the "Brazilian approach", to its agenda.

The sponsors hope that the revised version of document A/C.1/47/L.48 will be adopted by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take a decision on the amendment in document A/C.1/47/L.48, as orally revised. Its sponsors have requested that it be adopted without a vote.

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): The draft amendments were originally contained in document A/C.1/47/L.48, which have been orally revised this morning by the representative of Canada, were introduced by the representative of Canada at the 37th meeting, on 20 November 1992. They are sponsored by the following countries: Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Mauritius, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Portugal and Spain.

The CHAIRMAN: The sponsors have requested that the amendments in document A/C.1/47/L.48, as orally revised, be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, the Committee will act accordingly.

The amendments, as orally revised, were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4 as a whole, as orally revised. Its sponsors have asked that it be adopted without a vote.

I call on the Secretary.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4 as a whole, as orally revised, has the following sponsors: Armenia, Brazil, Cameroon, Egypt, Finland, Hungary, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Sweden and Uruguay.

The CHAIRMAN: The sponsors have expressed the wish that draft resolution L.4 be adopted without a vote. If I hear no objection, the Committee will act accordingly.

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.4 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall now call on representatives who wish to explain their positions.

Sir Michael WESTON (United Kingdom): I should like to explain my delegation's position on the resolution that has just been adopted.

My delegation warmly welcomed the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) reforms which were negotiated in 1989 and came into effect progressively in 1990 and 1991. Instead of a system in which any item could, in effect, be placed on the agenda by a vote of the First Committee and could stay there indefinitely, it was decided to have an agenda limited to a maximum of four items at any one time, and that in principle each item should remain on the working agenda for no more than three years. This implied a carefully negotiated consensus on the group of items which would form the agenda at any given time. Such a process was successfuly completed when the current three items were placed on the agenda.

Under the new arrangements the practice appeared to be accepted that the First Committee resolution on the UNDC report acted as a vehicle to record whatever consensus existed. We have worked for just such a solution this year. A large area of consensus does exist, and there is still plenty of time to complete the negotiations on the agenda before the session opens in April next year.

My delegation will approach those negotiations with an open mind. We do not consider ourselves in any way bound in those negotiations by the resolution that has just been adopted by this Committee. It is the view of my delegation that it would be wise to postpone the decision until after the resumed meetings of the First Committee next March.

I should perhaps say a word also about the substance of the issue, and explain why my delegation is not yet ready to accept the proposed additional

(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

agenda items. We believe that it is important to have a clear objective when accepting an item for consideration by any arm of the international disarmament machinery. Initially we felt that both the items proposed for the UNDC lacked such clarity of objective and in fact were likely to overlap to an unacceptable degree with consideration of aspects of the same subjects in other forums.

Following reformulation of the item springing from resolution 46/36 H, we are content that consideration by UNDC could be focused on a real problem - illicit arms transfers - and need not overlap either with the work of the Conference on Disarmament on transparency in armaments or with future work of the General Assembly and the 1994 Expert Group on the United Nations Arms Register.

We had hoped that we could have had similar success in clarifying the objectives of the proposal to consider non-proliferation. Our minds are not closed, but we have serious concerns lest UNDC discussion, if too broad in focus, could have detrimental effects on the existing regimes and on the work of other forums. This is not to say that our concern for the subject of non-proliferation has decreased. The reverse is in fact the case. Our opposition to the present proposal arises because of the importance we attach to the subject and the level of our concern that it should be properly addressed.

Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America): The United States delegation, also, wishes to explain its position on draft resolution L.4 as amended by document L.48/Rev.1, just adopted by consensus.

(Mr. Ledogar, United States)

We believe it is contrary to the procedures of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), which decides its own agenda by consensus, for draft resolution L.4, originally presented by the members of the UNDC Bureau, to appear to prejudice when a particular item should be added to the substantive agenda before there is agreement on this point.

We would point out further that the third and fourth preambular paragraphs are inaccurate. The proposals that are noted were not made for the years 1993 and 1994 that are respectively identified.

My delegation wishes to reaffirm for the record that the outcome of this resolution, even though it was adopted without a vote, can have no effect on the 1992 UNDC organizational meeting next month, or whenever it may take place.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has now concluded its consideration of all agenda items on disarmament and international security matters.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind members of the Committee that, in accordance with the Committee's programme of work and time-table, on Monday, 23 November, the Committee will begin its general debate on the consideration of and action on agenda item 66, namely "The question of Antarctica". I therefore urge those delegations wishing to participate in the general debate on that question kindly to inscribe their names on the speaker list as soon as possible in order to enable the Committee to fully utilize the conference facilities available to it.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.